

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AF-10 ARA-11 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 SCI-06 /153 W

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TAGS: TSPA, PFOR, UN

SUBJ: DIRECT BROADCAST SATELLITE WORKING GROUP

JUNE 18-19

1. SUMMARY: DBS WORKING GROUP JUNE 18-19 HEARD GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENTS BY CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND EGYPT AND LENGTHY CANADIAN INTERVENTION RESPONDING TO VARIOUS STATEMENTS BY OTHER DELEGATIONS. WG THEN CONSIDERED SECRETARIAT "SUMMARIES" WHICH IT ACCEPTED AS BASIS FOR FIRST DRAFTS OF TECHNICAL AND POLITICAL-LEGAL SECTIONS OF ITS REPORT. END SUMMARY.

2. DETAILS. CZECHOSLOVAKIA PREDICTABLY PLUMPED HARD FOR NEGOTIATION OF CONVENTION ON DBS BASED ON USSR DRAFT, ASSERTING THIS WOULD FULFILL UNGA'S "UNEQUIVOCAL MANDATE" IN RES 2916. CZECHOSLOVAK REP SAW PRECEDENT FOR THIS PROJECT IN 1936 BROADCASTING CONVENTION (US WAS NON-ADHERENT) WHICH INTER ALIA PROSCRIBED INCITEMENT TO WAR AND CIVIL DISORDER. USSR DRAFT, HE ADDED, WOULD ALSO PREVENT "COMMERCIAL ABUSE" OF ACHIEVEMENTS IN SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS. CZECHOSLOVAK REP SAID THAT BESIDES EXISTING TECHNICAL CONTROL MEASURES OVER INTERNATIONAL SPACE COMMUNICATIONS, POLITICAL-LEGAL ARRANGEMENTS ARE NOW NEEDED. HE PROPOSED THAT WG RECOMMEND TO OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE THAT LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE SHOULD ELABORATE DBS PRINCIPLES (IMPLYING THAT THESE SHOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BE BASED ON SOVIET CONVENTION) AS PRIORITY MATTER. PERHAPS REFLECTING SOVIET AND EE CONCERNS ABOUT FUTURE "UNOFFICIAL" BROADCASTS, CZECHOSLOVAK REP GENERALIZED THAT DIRECT BROADCASTING BY SATELLITES SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT ONLY BY ORGANIZATIONS

UNDER CONTROL OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS.

3. EGYPT PLACED CONSIDERABLE STRESS ON POSSIBLE BENEFITS OF DBS, ESPECIALLY TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, IN PROMOTING, E. G. N EDUCATION, HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING AND GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES. HOWEVER, NOTWITHSTANDING PROSPECTIVE ADVANTAGES, EGYPTIAN REP SAW POSSIBLE DANGERS THAT DBS MIGHT LEAD TO INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS AND CONFLICTS AND IN THIS CONNECTION PRAISED COMMON PRINCIPLE OF PRIOR CONSENT IN UNESCO DECLARATION, USSR DRAFT CONVENTION AND CANADIAN- SWEDISH DRAFT PRINCIPLES. SOVIET CONVENTION, ACCORDING TO EGYPTIAN, SPELLED CONSENT PRINCIPLE OUT MORE COMPLETELY THAN CANADIAN- SWEDISH DRAFT, BASING IT MAINLY ON STATE SOVEREIGNTY. ESTABLISHMENT OF PRIOR CONSENT PRINCIPLE, EGYPT CONCLUDED, SHOULD PRECEDE ANY PRACTICAL STEPS TOWARD REALIZATION OF DIRECT BROADCASTING.

4. CANADA, IN COMMENTING ON VARIOUS GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENTS, SUPPORTED INDIAN SUGGESTION FOR RECOMMENDATION TO OSC THAT WG BE RECONVENED EARLY NEXT YEAR. MANDATE FOR ONGOING WORK SHOULD BE AS PRECISE AS POSSIBLE. REGARDING PRIOR CONSENT, CANADIAN DELOFF ADMITTED THIS IS DIFFICULT PRINCIPLE, ADDING THAT IN CANADIAN INTERPRETATION IT WAS CLOSELY LINKED WITH COOPERATION AND PARTICIPATION IN SATELLITE DIRECT BROADCASTING. CANADA DID NOT ANTICIPATE DIFFICULTIES IN PUTTING PRINCIPLE INTO PRACTICE, HE CONTINUED, ARGUING THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED IN TERMS OF " WORST CASE" SCENARIO. DELOFF SAID CANADIANS SAW NO NECESSARY CONTRADICTION BETWEEN CONSENT PRINCIPLE AND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION, WHICH WAS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO CANADA AND DEEPLY ENTRENCHED IN ITS CONSTITUTION AND PRACTICE. IN FACT, CANADA DID NOT BELIEVE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION WAS AT ISSUE IN CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT QUESTION.

5. CANADIAN DELOFF SAID THAT US REP' S JUNE 15 STATEMENT THAT US HAD NO INTEREST IN DOMESTIC DBS " FAITHFULLY" PARALLELED SITUATION IN CANADA WHICH HAD VERY LARGE INVESTMENT IN TERRESTRIAL TV NET. HOWEVER, HE ASKED, SHOULD NON- CANADIAN ORGANIZATION BE GIVEN RIGHT TO COMPETE WITH EXISTING CANADIAN SYSTEM? WAS THERE ASSURANCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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THAT FOREIGN BROADCASTER WOULD BE AS SOLICITOUS OF CANADIAN INTERESTS AS WERE DOMESTIC BROADCASTERS UNDER CANADIAN LICENSING PROVISIONS? (COMMENT: DELOFF DID NOT ADDRESS LACK OF TECHNICAL CAPABILITY AND ECONOMIC DISINCENTIVES FOR ANYONE CONSIDERING SUCH AND EFFORT.) DELOFF CONCLUDED WITH PLUG FOR CANADIAN- SWEDISH DRAFT PRINCIPLES AS APPROACH CONSISTENT WITH THAT TAKEN BY ITU ON TECHNICAL LEVEL.

6. AT P. M. MEETING WG TURNED TO CONSIDERATION OF " SUMMARY" PREPARED BY SECRETARIAT UNDER DIRECTION OF WG CHAIRMAN WHICH, WITH SOME MODIFICATIONS, WAS ACCEPTED AS BASIS FOR FIRST DRAFT OF TECHNICAL SECTION OF WG REPORT. SAME PROCEDURE WAS FOLLOWED WITH

POLITICAL- LEGAL SECTION IN A. M. MEETING JUNE 19. LATTER
UNDERSTANDABLY PROVED MORE CONTROVERSIAL, BUT WE BELIEVE
FIRST DRAFT RETAINS ESSENTIAL BALANCE IN STATEMENT OF VARIOUS
POSITIONS.

7. ALSO AT JUNE 19 A. M. MEETING, WG APPROVED OBSERVER STATUS
FOR ASIAN BROADCASTING UNION AFTER OVERNIGHT DELAY OCCASIONED
BY SOVS' REQUEST FOR MORE TIME TO CONSIDER REQUEST. IN END,
THEY RAISED NO OBJECTION.
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